

1 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Marilyn Lancelot?

2 MS. LANCELOT: Madam Chair, members of the -- well,
3 Mister Chairman, members of the Commission, my name is Marilyn
4 Lancelot and I'm a compulsive gambler. I have no opinion on
5 taxation or regulation and I'm not against gambling for people
6 who can handle it. I gambled periodically at horse and dog
7 races, card games, lottery, bingo over the first 50 years of my
8 life. Then I visited my first casino in Reno, Nevada. At that
9 time I lived in Yuma, Arizona where there was no casino gambling.

10 I loved the slot machines when I found them and then
11 I discovered Laughlin, Nevada and made weekly trips from Yuma to
12 the Laughlin casinos for seven years. Caught up in a compulsive
13 behavior, I was addicted to this type of gambling immediately.
14 The trip from Yuma to Laughlin took four hours and I would have
15 driven all day to reach a casino. I drove recklessly on the way,
16 never considering the safety of the passengers in my car. I
17 gambled only on weekends but I thought about it all week long. I
18 even bought books on how to gamble successfully.

19 I never won a huge jackpot, just enough to keep me
20 coming back either to win more or to win back what I had lost.
21 When I drove to Laughlin by myself and came home and I had lost,
22 many times I thought of turning the wheel of my car into the semi
23 headed toward me. It would end this horrible nightmare. My
24 insurance would take care of my problems and no one would ever
25 know about my secret. I had always prided myself on being a
26 model housewife, mother of five and couldn't imagine what had
27 happened.

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1 I hated what I was doing. I made promises to stop
2 this insane behavior but I couldn't. I hurt my family, my
3 friends and my employer. I even took my grandchildren with me to
4 Laughlin when they were only five and six years old and I never
5 gave a second thought to there may be something wrong with this.
6 I gave each of them a roll of quarters and sent them to the game
7 room. When they ran out of quarters, they came down to the
8 casino floor. I would kiss them and give them another roll of
9 coins. At 9:00 o'clock I walked them to the room, put them to
10 bed, locked the door and I returned to the casino.

11 After two years of gambling, I was losing large
12 amounts of money, max'd out all my credit cards. I rented a post
13 office box to have my credit card statements sent there so my
14 family wouldn't see what I was spending. Everything had to be
15 secret. I lied about how much I won or lost. I began borrowing
16 money from my employer to gamble with. The more I lost, the more
17 I borrowed. I couldn't pay it back unless I gambled more. But
18 there was always that dream that I'd win the big one and pay
19 everything back and then I'd quit.

20 The casinos in Laughlin gave me a free room and free
21 meals. They called me by my first name. Unfortunately, I never
22 won the big one and the borrowing from my employer was
23 discovered. I was forced to turn over my property to my employer
24 which consisted of two beautiful homes, a couple of mobile homes,
25 my savings, my retirement funds, everything I had worked for all
26 my life. I had to file bankruptcy on my bills. I'm still paying
27 restitution and will have to for the rest of my life.

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1 I am still working. I am 68 years old. I have no
2 home, no retirement fund or savings account, all the result of my
3 compulsive gambling and that's only a small part of my story. I
4 can't gamble normally, but I found a way to stop. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Thank you very much, Ms.
6 Lancelot.

7 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Mr. Chairman, could I just
8 ask, would you share with us in more detail, not at this moment
9 but in writing, your experience with using your credit cards,
10 maxing out and did you use the credit cards on the premises of
11 the gambling establish? Would you give us those details, please?
12 Thank you.

13 MS. LANCELOT: It was \$300,000.00.

14 COMMISSIONER McCARTHY: Give it to us in writing if
15 you would. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER WILHELM: Thank you very much, Ms.
17 Lancelot.

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